

**From:** W. J. Kossler  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/6/01 3:22pm  
**Subject:** View of Settlement

Sirs:

Several comments:

1. Microsoft is a monopoly. This monopoly, while having its positive side (providing a standard for hardware manufacturers, for example) has been clearly used by Microsoft to its own advantage. Word processor document formats which change and which others can only reverse engineer to has, for example, placed most other word processors other than Word at an unfair disadvantage. This is also true for Powerpoint and the MS spreadsheet. Microsoft should, so long as it has the lion's share of the market , be forced to make public its document coding.
2. The setting up of Web sites with code which only works for MS IE should be watched very closely. Wachovia banking on line has such a site. One cannot print directly ones statement using Netscape, Mozilla, or Konqueror as alternatives. The role as standards make can be very positive, but MS does it badly.
3. Part of this settlement should be the setting up and maintaining sets of standards for Web sites, programs etc. with MS involvement, but not by any means control.

I am primarily a Red Hat Linux user, though I also use MS products when they are better.

Sincerely yours,

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